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EXCLUSIVELY YOURS

Dinners Honor Kress Art

By BETTY BEALE

Star Staff Writer

Washington will be involved in undisputed high class art of the ages this coming Saturday night.

Even such modern art lovers as Mr. and Mrs. Gates Lloyd will still any thrill they may derive from the incomprehensible if provocative canvasses of today, to pay tribute to the now completed and remarkable Kress collection at the National Gallery.

THE MOST MODERN PAINTING of the hundreds collected by the late Samuel H. Kress is one of Napoleon by David. No matter how modern it may have seemed to the people of David's time, the viewer experiences no difficulty in recognizing Napoleon.

Needless to say, portraiture is much too confining for the modern artist today who paints what he sees with his mind and his emotions, not his orbs. If you hired a person to paint a picture of your husband, and when he looks at your husband he doesn't see a man at all but a mule instead, you might refuse to pay for the portrait of a mule, accurate representation though it might be.

Anyhow, Washington society will turn out in gilded droves to attend Saturday night's invitational opening to the "Art Treasures for America" from not only the permanent Kress collection at the National Gallery but also from 18 other Amer-

ican galleries boasting Kress donations.

In advance of the black tie opening a host of dinners will be given by members of the cultured set. Chief among them will be the dinner for 200 at the Sulgrave Club to which National Gallery Director and Mrs. John Walker will draw Chief Justice Warren, Secretary of State Rusk, Paul Mellon and Chester Dale—all trustees of the gallery—plus the gentlemen's wives, of course.

TO IT ALSO WILL COME the trustees of the Kress foundation and visiting directors (from as far away as Hawaii) of the museums participating in the exhibition.

This dinner will be at 7 o'clock, as will some of the others including Mrs. Robert Low Bacon's big dinner at the Metropolitan Club. The early dining hour will permit guests to arrive at the Gallery at 9 o'clock when the doors open.

Others giving dinner parties before the opening are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lippmann, Admiral and Mrs. Neill Phillips, the Chairman of the International Joint Commission and Mrs. Edward Bacon, Mr. and Mrs. Gates Lloyd, the Joseph Alsops, the Robert Thayers, Mr. and Mrs. Garrison Norton, Brig. Gen. and Mrs. William McKee Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cox, the Peter Belins, the Douglas Burdens, and J. Carter Brown of the gallery who will have some of the younger members of the Kress

family to dinner at his house on Reservoir road.

As the final legacy of the Samuel Kress Foundation is unveiled at the National Gallery, any of the descendants who dwell for a moment on the fabled fortune these same paintings would bring at auction today, will be forgiven. Mr. Kress paid \$50 million for them years and years ago, so remembering the recent Rembrandt sale, one can guess what they would bring today.

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LOY W. HENDERSON was honored yesterday at a meaningful ceremony at the Iranian Embassy where he was presented the highest insignia of the order of Homayoon conferred upon him by His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah.

The ceremony was meaningful because specific reasons were cited for giving the award to the former Ambassador to Iran, and because of the affection in which Mr. Henderson is obviously held by the Persians.

The handsome new Iranian Embassy with its door framed in the beautiful blue Persian tile admired by passers-by on Massachusetts avenue was opened to guests for the first time in honor of the occasion.

Its pristine white interior, the lovely blue-tile-trimmed inner court with flowing fountain seen through the glass walls surrounding it,

and the big crystal-lit room in which the presentation was made, were admired by the guests.

SO EAGER WAS AMBAS-

SADOR Ardeshir Zahedi to use this room in the new building that he himself dreamed up the makeshift curtains that adorned the windows. They weren't curtains at all. They were simply long swags of dark red nylon fabric draped around the little metal fixtures that held them up. They were so effective no one would have known had he not let the cat out of the bag himself.

The 150 to 200 guests sat in gold chairs facing the raised platform that was covered with the customary fine Persian rug. An exquisite gold and multi-colored fringed cloth covered the table on the dais.

In the audience were Greek Ambassador and Mrs. Liatis, Finnish Ambassador and Mrs. Seppala, Pakistan Ambassador Aziz Ahmed, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer, and his wife, former Chief of the Air Force and Mrs. Thomas White who have just bought the first house they have ever owned—in Westmoreland Hills—and are in the process of refurbishing it; Mr. and Mrs. John Lord O'Brian, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Buchanan, and scores of others.